

**At a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 6:00
P.M.**

Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding

Vice President Robert J. Sylvia

Councillor Richard P. Adams

Councillor Bruce J. Long

Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

RECONSIDERATION

The Middletown Town Council follows the codification of present-day general parliamentary law as articulated in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th edition (2000), together with whatever rules of order the Council has adopted for its own governance. The motion to reconsider is one of the motions that can bring a question again before an assembly, and is designed to bring back for further consideration a motion which has already been voted on:

If, in the same session that a motion has been voted on, but no later than the same day or the next day on which a business meeting is held, new information or a changed situation makes it appear that a different result might reflect the true will of the assembly, a member who voted with the prevailing side can, by moving to Reconsider [RONR (10th ed.), p. 304-321] the vote, propose that the question shall come before the assembly again as if it had not previously been considered. (From Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief, Robert, Evans et al., De Capo Press, 2004)

There were no reconsiderations.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Middletown Police Department Community Survey.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to begin said presentation.

Chief Pesare introduced Professor Daniel Knight, who conducted a survey of Middletown Police Department, at no cost to the Town.

Professor Daniel Knight from Salve Regina University addressed the Council presenting a power point of the Middletown Police

Department Community Survey. The survey Executive Summary is on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Discussion centered around positive questions being asked within the survey, the need to readdress the coyote issue, the school resource program was recognized low on the list, response time of the survey, number of surveys returned, a suggestion was made that officers walk shopping centers and beach areas, the survey being a positive reflection of the Police Department and the survey is part of the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) process.

The Town Council thanked Mr. Knight for his valuable service to the Town.

Council President Semonelli presented Dr. Knight with a Town Tile and gift from the Middletown Police Department.

2. Memorandum of Middletown Police Chief Anthony M. Pesare, re: Middletown Police award and swearing in ceremony.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum and begin said Police award and swearing in ceremony.

Police Chief Anthony Pesare introduced Lieutenant Patrick Sweeney, and Lieutenant Frank Lema both recently retired. Vice President Sylvia presented retirees with gifts for recognition of their service to the Town. Mr. Pesare announced the promotion of Sergeant Ferenc Karoly to the rank of Lieutenant, Sergeant Richard Gamache to the rank of Lieutenant, Detective Jason Ryan to the rank of Sergeant, Officer Michael Maruska to the rank of Sergeant, Officer Michael Kravchuk to the rank of Detective, Probationary Officer Jaclyn Casaceli and Probationary Officer James A. O'Neil, all sworn in by the Town Clerk and pinned by family members and friends.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 7:05 pm.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene this meeting at 7:15 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Council, Citizens may address the town on one (1) subject only, said subject of substantive Town business, neither discussed during the regular meeting nor related to personnel or job performance. Citizens may speak for no longer than five (5) minutes and must submit a public participation form to the Council Clerk prior to the start of the meeting. All items discussed during this session will not be voted upon.

William A. Kelly, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, addressed the Council presenting three donations to the Town as follows: 1. To the School Department for a Computer lab at the Middletown High School, 2. To the Council for Howland Park and 3. To the Council for Berkeley Peckham/Senior Center. Mr. Kelly was a student in Middletown and noted he wanted to give back to the area where he attended school.

School Committee Chair Theresa Spengler and Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger thanked Mr. Kelly and noted the benefit to Middletown students.

CONSENT

Councillor Long requested that item #6 be heard under the regular portion of the docket.

4. (Continued from February 18, 2014)

Communication of Vincent J. Palumbo, P.E., Highway Managing Engineer, with enclosure, re: Reconstruction of Two Mile Corner (Routes 138/114) West Main Rd – Commercial St to Maplewood Road, East Main Rd – West Main Road to Bailey Brook, Middletown, RI, RI Contract No. 93116, R.I.F.A.P. NO. AF-0138(011), HHP -4858(001), Coddington Highway Taper Lane (The Administration requests to

continue this matter to the March 17, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Council.)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to continue this matter to the March 17, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Council.

5. Communication of Shirley A. Hill, MLK Birthday Celebration Committee, re: Appreciation for support in participating in the 29th Annual Memorial Birthday Program.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

6. Resolution of Town of Charlestown, re: Resolution to Support Repeal of Master-Lever Voting.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said resolution.

Councillor Long requested a resolution to support the Repeal of Master-Lever voting be place on the next Regular Meeting agenda to be held on March 17, 2014.

On motion of Councillor Long, duly seconded, it was voted to place a resolution to support the Repeal of Master-Lever on the next Regular Meeting docket, March 17, 2014 for consideration; Vice President Sylvia voted NO to said motion.

7. Notice of Public Hearing from the Middletown Zoning Board of Review, re: Petition of George Warren et als (owner) – by attorney Patrick O’N. Hayes, Jr. for a Variance from Section 603- to subdivide the existing lot into two lots each having 37.59 feet of frontage where 200 feet is required, one lot to be 1.38 acres and the other 3.81 acres in the same manner as the previously approved on real estate located at 516 Paradise Avenue (Paradise Court), TAP 127, LOT 2.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said notice of public hearing.

8. Petition of National Grid Electric Company and Verizon for Green End Avenue Proposed New JO pole location. (Recommendation of Roads/Utilities Committee/Public Works Director)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said approve said petition.

9.

Applications received from the following named persons, firms and corporations for RENEWAL of Drain Layers Licenses for the 2014-2015 licensing year. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license renewals.

ORDINANCE

10. An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second Reading)

An

Ordinance in Amendment to the Town Code of the Town of Middletown, Title III, Administration, Chapter 36, Fee Schedule, Section 45, Burial Lots.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adopt said ordinance on its second reading.

Councillor Santos thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their efforts

with the Middletown Cemetery project.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

11.

Communication of Jody J. Sullivan, Executive Director, Newport County Chamber of Commerce, re: Requesting support for to create a Regional Economic Development Organization.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Jody J. Sullivan, Executive Director, Newport County Chamber of Commerce reviewed the communication above.

Discussion centered around that the role of the Middletown Economic Development Committee working with the Regional Economic Development Organization, each community will invest \$20,000, funding for the request is from the general fund and the importance of someone promoting the area.

Robert Silva, Chairman, Middletown Economic Development Committee, noted the committee's support of the regional concept. Mr. Silva explained that this is an initial effort and will report back to the Council on the progress of the committee.

Discussion centered around support for creating the Regional Economic Development Organization, exploring long range capacity planning, how to attract additional business to the area, efforts made to expand the State's economic zone program, the Aquidneck Island broadband project and the redevelopment of West Main Road.

12. Memorandum of Robert M. Silva, Chairman, Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee, re: Proposed Regional Economic Development Effort.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

13. Resolution of the Council, re: Endorsing concept of establishing a regional development office and committing Town funding.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted to pass said resolution, Councillor Santos voted No to said motion.

Councillor Santos explained that there was no expense amount indicated in the resolution.

On motion of Councillor Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconsider the previous vote to pass said resolution.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to amend the resolution to commit \$20,000 in town funding as its contribution to the match grant funding the Chamber has received for the first year of said project and pass said resolution, as amended.

TOWN COUNCIL

14.

Resolution of the Council, re: Town 2014 Legislative Agenda.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to pass said resolution.

15. Discussion of meeting dates for the School Department Facilities

Plan.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to begin said discussion.

Discussion centered around meeting on non-council regular meeting nights, each meeting being approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours, property tours, the School is developing the Facilities Plan and not the Council and posting all tours as Council meetings.

On motion of Council President, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adopt the meeting schedule, outlined above.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

16. Memorandum of Theresa Coish, Library Director, thru Town

Administrator, re: Requesting approval to submit grant proposal to the Rhode Island Office of Library Services.

**Theresa Coish, Library Director reviewed the memorandum, entered
here:**

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to authorize submission of said grant application to the Rhode Island Office of Library Services.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Appointment of one (1) member to the Middletown Tax Assessment Review Board for a term expiring October 2016. (Bipartisan Board)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Tracey Taber for a term expiring October 2016.

17. Appointment of one (1) member to Middletown Board of Canvassers for a term expiring March 2020. (Bipartisan Board)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to appoint Audrey Rearick to the Board of Canvassers for a term expiring March 2020.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 8:10 pm.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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